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Sundial Manufactured by Sheldon Moore, Kensington, c. 1840.

Sheldon Moore, son of Roswell and Lovina (Phillips) Moore, was born in Southington, Connecticut, October 17, 1798. After graduation from Yale in 1818, he taught for some time in Virginia and Connecticut. He studied law, but soon relinquished his practice and devoted his full time to business interests. He was forced to retire early due to ill health, and died in Kensington, March 20, 1866. His wife, Susan Langdon Dickinson, daughter of Jesse

Dickinson, was born November 20, 1809 in Kensington. They were married November 1, 1831 and had three sons and a daughter. His brother Roswell Moore carried on an extensive business in the manufacture of cement.

Sheldon was much interested in fruit culture and about 1840 commenced the manufacture of sundials. A few years ago the Society was offered a collection of papers of Sheldon and Roswell Moore. This was purchased, and in cataloguing it was noted that a portion of the letters of Sheldon Moore dealt with sundials. Recently a specimen of one of these dials was presented to the Society, which recalled the manuscript material previously acquired. It is not often that we have both the records and objects manufactured. This is a fine example of the type of materials sought for this library and also the kind of specimen particularly desired for the museum. In hopes it will inspire further gifts along these lines, we include here a résumé of information discovered concerning this endeavor.

The manufacture of sundials was commenced prior to August 1840, in which month a supply was sent to Breck & Company of Boston for sale at 20% commission. In six months they sold 18 dials, which apparently encouraged Sheldon Moore to expand his facilities.

In the *Cultivator,* volume 8, page 104, for June 1841, appeared the following letter:

> "Messrs. Gaylord & Tucker—I perceive in two communications from A. Walsh, Esq. in late Nos. of the Cultivator, recommendations of a sun dial as one of the convenient and useful decorations of a garden, and inquiries made where a proper one is to be procured. The object of this is to inform your numerous readers, that when the communications met my eye, I was engaged in constructing one, partly for the very purpose for which Mr. Walsh recommends it. I expect to have a quantity finished and for sale in two or three weeks. They will be for sale in Hartford and in New York City, and if convenient, a quantity will be sent to Albany. Due notice of the persons having them for sale will be given in the Cultivator, if permited.
>
> Resp'y yours,
>
> S. MOORE.
>
> *Kensington, Ct.,* May 21, 1841.

Willcox and Prior of New Haven, later N. Willcox, did the casting. In July 1841 they billed Moore for 36 dials:

carting to and from railroad	.50
pattern box	.17
36 dials	12.00
pattern	5.00
cask for packing	.25
	17.92

From this it is apparent that the cost of each dial was roughly fifty cents. The question of suitable metal and color arose early, for Willcox reported:

"I know of no white metal that will run smooth that will be cheaper than block tin." However they continued to experiment, for a later letter says: "I send you herewith 2 metal dials as you directed. They are not as smooth as we sometimes get of the same kind of metal. There is not the same certainty as there is in Iron. Much depends on the *temperature* of the metal when poured into the mould."

"Type metal would more uniformly run smooth than this, but would be too brittle. I have made these two as cheap as I can, but were I [to] make a larger quantity they might be made for 25 cents per pound."

Willcox closed with some advice: "If you fit them for patterns make the letters as beveling as you can & also give draft to the upright piece. We had much trouble in moulding these in consequence of the glue over the surface, which I suppose got on when you put on the letters."

The bill enclosed at this time included the charge for

the two white metal dials of	2.79
25 cast iron dials	8.33
cask and cartage	.38
Box for pattern	.25
cartage to railroad	.25
	12.00

In August 1841 news of the sundial had spread to New York State, for Alexander Walsh, of Lansingburgh, acknowledged the receipt of two dials, one of which he was going to place in his garden and exhibit the other at Saratoga Springs. This gentleman is the same person alluded to previously in the columns of the *Cultivator* requesting a sundial.

In September, the *Cultivator* continued the discussion:

> This instrument for measuring time has been known and in use from the earliest ages, and is a common and valued ornament in gardens, pleasure grounds and yards in Europe, but has been comparatively little known or noticed in this country. Our climate is well adapted to the use of the sun dial, the great number of our clear and beautiful days rendering it more useful here, as a correct measurer of time, than in England, where the cloudy days are more frequent. Of late, however, public attention has been attracted to their value and convenience, and we are glad to announce that a manufactory of dials, a correct and beautiful article, has been established by MR. MOORE, of Kensington, (Ct.) specimens of which may be seen at Henry Rawls & Co's. Albany, and at Geo. C. Thorburn's, New York. In the yard or garden, they should be placed on a neat and firm pedestal, and are very ornamental. We have copied a good figure (71) of such a pedestal, from Downing's new work on Landscape Gardening, from which we extract the following just remarks respecting it: "Sun dials are among the oldest decorations for the garden and grounds, and there are scarcely any we think more suitable. They are not merely decorative, but have also a tasteful character, and may therefore be occasionally

placed in distant parts of the grounds, should a favorite walk terminate there. When we meet daily in our walks for a number of years, with one of these silent monitors of the flight of time, we become in a degree attached to it, and almost look upon it as gifted with a species of intelligence, which looks out when the sunbeams smile upon the dial plate."

We cannot avoid paying, in this place, a well deserved compliment to our friend MR. WALSH, whose indefatigable labors in the cause of horticulture and correct taste are so well known, as it was his suggestion which called this manufactory of dials into existence.

In the next issue, Sheldon Moore hastened to set the record straight and give directions for the mounting of his dials:

Messrs. Gaylord & Tucker—Will you allow me a small space in the Cultivator for next month to say a few words about the mode of setting the sun dials you so favorably noticed in your last paper, and one or two other observations regarding them.

The best and most convenient way of setting them is, after leveling the pedestal or plane on which the dial is to be placed, (being particular to get it level in an east and west direction,) then to adjust a clock or watch to the true apparent time, (either by setting it by another time piece known to be correct, or by equal altitudes or other observation of the sun,) and then at 12 o'clock, M, or at ten minutes before or after, set the dial true, and make it fast to the pedestal by screws or nails.

They can be placed by setting the stile or gnomon true north and south by a meridian line or a compass, but the foregoing method is preferable.

They are accurate for the latitude of this place, (41° 36′) and will be sufficiently so for 150 or 200 miles north of this latitude, and will be entirely correct for any latitude if the dial is inclined in setting, so that the edge of the gnomon that casts the shadow will be parallel with the pole of the earth; in other words, if when the latitude is less than that of the dial, the south side is elevated as many degrees as the latitude is less, and when the latitude is greater, the north side is raised in the same proportion.

Your remark that my manufactory of dials was called into existence by the suggestions of Mr. Walsh, is not strictly correct, as I had been engaged in preparing for making them, for some time before Mr. Walsh's articles met my eye, as will be seen by turning to my note to you in the June Cultivator; but his suggestions hastened the manufacture and I am under special obligations to him for his encouragement and his effort to make them known and introduce them into use.

SHELDON MOORE.

Kensington, Ct. Sept. 15, 1841.

The announcement in the *Cultivator* was seen by John McRae, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, who wrote September 15 requesting one. He said further: "I published some time ago an elegant map of the State 3 feet by 7

in size, handsomely engraved by Mr. Tanner of Philadelphia of which I have still a few copies on hand. If Mr. Moore is willing, I will exchange my work for his—The price of the map is ten dollars for the same amount of sun dials calculated for use in this region. . . ."

During October several dealers requested shipment of new lots, for all on hand had been sold. Also, Hovey & Company in Boston wrote requesting an agency for that vicinity. Hovey's published a horticultural periodical in which they offered to "notice in such manner as would make them sell well."

In November the following appeared in their periodical:

> SUN DIAL. We are gratified to witness the introduction of the sun dial into our gardens. It is an old, but suitable ornament, and now that they can be procured at such reasonable prices, and such beautiful pedestals upon which to place them, we shall advise their general introduction into lawns and extensive flower gardens. We shall give an engraving, in a future number, of some of the pedestals made in New York, at the manufactory of Mr. Goodwin, corner of Chamber and Hudson Streets, and of Mr. Little, Chestnut Street, Philadelphia. A very neat dial plate is manufactured by S. Moore, of Connecticut, which may be had at the very low price of one dollar, and which answers every purpose. [These dials are offered for sale by Messrs. Hovey & Co., Boston, and G. C. Thorburn, New York]

In the following August the last notice that we have located concerning the sundials appeared:

> Sun Dials for Garden Ornaments.—It will be recollected that some time since (Vol. 7, p. 403) we noticed the cast iron sun dials made by Mr. S. Moore, of Connecticut. They were calculated for a northern latitude. In a late letter to us, Mr. Moore states that he is now making one for a southern latitude, 35°, which will answer for all places south of Mason and Dixon's line. We recommend these dials as neat ornaments to a garden, and quite as useful as ornamental.—Id.

What subsequently happened, we do not know. The correspondence ends late in 1841. No further references have been located in the *Cultivator* or *Magazine of Horticulture*. What evidence there is indicates a sale in 1840-41 of not more than 100 dials. Their cost was about fifty cents each, and they were sold at one dollar. The resulting profit is perhaps the best answer to the fate of Sheldon Moore's enterprise.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

Forty-one members have responded to our recent appeal for increase in dues by becoming contributing members. This is quite significant, for it proves without doubt that numerous members are much interested in the welfare of the Society. We hope more will avail themselves of this opportunity, for the need is still pressing. If we are to maintain our present level of services, even more funds are vitally needed. It is a well known fact that while costs are increasing, income from investments is decreasing. Your continued support is vitally essential to our growth.

During the summer months twelve new members have been admitted. This is a good start toward our goal of 600 members by next May. An application for membership was mailed with each *Annual Report.* Additional folders and blanks are available and a few copies of *Bulletins* and *Annual Reports* can be sent to prospective members. Your interest in securing applicants will be appreciated and is our best means of achieving representative membership.

The Society's extensive newspaper collection was considerably enlarged recently by the purchase of 230 issues of *The Norwich Packet,* November-December 1801, *Norwich True Republican,* 1804-1805 and the *Windham Herald,* 1811-1815. For these years our file is now the most complete. Previously we had only two issues in November and December 1801 of the *Norwich Packet.* We had only one issue of the *Norwich True Republican,* and our file is now better than at any other institution in the State. Our file of the *Windham Herald* was almost complete from 1791-1804 and 1808. The additions leave several gaps, but for the later period it is nearly perfect.

Several months ago an unknown view of the Charter Oak was brought from our storeroom and exhibited. A short time later, while examining the Isaac W. Stuart papers, a broadside was found identifying the painting. This broadside was for Wyatt's Theatre, American Building, announcing the performance of "Nathan Hale: The Martyr Spy", adapted by G. L. Aiken from the book by Stuart.

The second scene of Act 1, is "Local view of the Charter Oak, and residence of Hon. I. W. Stuart, Painted by D. A. Strong." This is too accurate a description of our painting for it to be anything else. It is definitely a theater backdrop. The play was produced in Hartford June 13, 1856; the Charter Oak fell August 21, 1856. Without doubt this painting was from nature and is perhaps the best representation of the famous tree and its setting.

The Stephen Mix Mitchell Highboy, undergoing repair and restoration for more than a year, has finally been returned. This highboy is unusual and unique in many ways. An illustration and some interesting notes on this restoration will be given in the next issue of the *Bulletin.*

Some copies of a pamphlet entitled *The Stanley Fund of the Second or South Ecclesiastical Society of Hartford, Connecticut* by James E. Rhodes, 2nd have been presented and as long as the supply lasts will be sent to members who request them.

In conjunction with the visit to Hartford of the Freedom Train, early in October, and "Rededication Week," we have arranged a special exhibition of some important original documents and books in the Society. They will continue on exhibition during the month of October and it is hoped many of you will have the opportunity to come in and see them.

Of especial interest are:

Henry Wolcott Junior's Shorthand Notebook

This contains an abstract of a sermon by Rev. Thomas Hooker, given May 31, 1638, in which he laid down the principles of the Fundamental

Orders, adopted 1638/9. An illustration and translation by J. Hammond Trumbull is in volume 8, page 25 of the Society's *Bulletin*.

The Code of 1650

After the adoption of the Code of 1650, each town was provided with a manuscript copy of the Code, and the subsequent laws of the General Court were added by the town clerks until the introduction of printing in the Colony. Two of these volumes have survived, one of which, for the town of Windsor, is in the possession of the Society. The particular significance of this volume lies in the fact that though the first five leaves are missing, index references show that originally it contained the Fundamental Orders ahead of the Code of 1650. Authorities consider this to be sufficient evidence that the Fundamental Orders were the Constitution of the Colony and as such the earliest written constitution in history.

A Portion of the Charter of 1662

This Charter was the basis of our law until the Constitution of 1818. It was this copy which tradition asserts was hidden by Joseph Wadsworth in the Charter Oak when Sir Edmund Andros came to Connecticut in November 1687 to assume charge of the government.

The Connecticut Courant, March 31, 1766

In this are reported the proceedings of the first party nominating convention held in Connecticut. The candidates for governor and deputy governor, nominated by this convention, were elected and also more than 50 *per cent* of the candidates for the General Assembly. It marked the largest political upheaval in Colonial Connecticut's history.

Nathan Hale's Army Diary

Nathan Hale kept this diary from September 23, 1775 until August 23, 1776. Shortly after this, about September 12, 1776, Hale entered the British lines where he was apprehended as a spy and executed on September 22nd.

Lafayette Agreement

The agreement signed December 7, 1776 by the Marquis de Lafayette, under which he came to aid "The United States of North America" because of "the justice of their cause."

MEDICAL GUARANTEE

We never knew that physicians once guaranteed immunity from smallpox through vaccination and in case of failure agreed to pay the expense. When the following document was discovered in some Westchester accounts of William Brainard the second, we were quite surprised and showed it to several doctors who were extremely interested. In the belief that it will interest others of our members, we are printing it in full.

> Received of Cap^{t} William Brainard 2^{d} thirteen dollars by note being in full for Vaccinating himself, wife and Children, Also his Father and Mother Brainard, and, Amasiah, Orin, Susannah, Roxy, Sally, & Dolly Brainard and Ansel Goff, and promise that if either of them should take

the small pox at any time hereafter to pay all necessary expence in carrying them thro said disease.

Colchester May 21st 1805 Vine Utley

Due Ninety days from Date to Doct Vine Utley.

For those who are curious as to the fate of the individuals named, *The Brainerd-Brainard Family*, by Miss Lucy A. Brainard, has the following: Captain William, 2nd, died in 1844, aged 70 and his wife in 1857, aged 76. His first three children, born before 1805, were Jerusha who died in in 1828, aged 28, Nathaniel in 1876, aged 76 and Lucy in 1857, aged 52. His father died in 1820 and his mother in 1823. Of his brothers and sisters, mentioned above, Amasiah died in 1841, Orin in 1865, Susannah in 1848, Roxy in 1874, Sally in 1880 and Dolly in 1860. It would therefore seem that the vaccination was a complete success.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Princeton University will sponsor and the Princeton University Press will publish a definitive edition of the writings and correspondence of Thomas Jefferson in approximately fifty volumes. This project is made possible through a subvention of $200,000 by the New York Times Company as a memorial to Adolf S. Ochs. The editor is Julian P. Boyd, Librarian of Princeton University, who states that the enterprise contemplates the publication of all letters, memoranda, account books, commonplace books, legal opinions, addresses and miscellaneous papers of Jefferson, together with his public and other writings, such as the *Notes on the State of Virginia*, the garden book, etc. The edition will also include listings, summaries, or full printings of letters to Jefferson. Mr. Boyd will be assisted by a small staff.

An appeal is being made to archivists, librarians, scholars, collectors and dealers to cooperate with this enterprise by notifying the editor of the existence of isolated documents—especially those in private hands—to the end that the edition may be as complete as possible.

The undertaking is under the supervision of an Advisory Board consisting of: Douglas S. Freeman, Chairman, Fiske Kimball, Vice Chairman, Randolph G. Adams, George A. Brakeley, Solon J. Buck, Gilbert Chinard, Henry Steele Commager, Harold W. Dodds, Stuart G. Gibboney, Carter Glass, Archibald MacLeish, Dumas Malone, Bernard Mayo, Samuel Eliot Morison, Charles Scribner, Datus C. Smith, Jr., Howard W. Smith, Iphigene Ochs Sulzberger, Carl Van Doren, and Lawrence C. Wroth.

It is hoped that members of this Society will send to Mr. Boyd any information they may have about archival or manuscript collections containing Jefferson documents or items of Jefferson interest, particularly those owned privately.

The Price of these Bulletins is ten cents each.